

Easement

WA-HAG-84

MAGI # 2204911204-6174

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: The Elliott-Bester House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 205-207 South Potomac Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth	
STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24	COUNTY: Washington	CODE: 043

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Restoration in progress
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments The house is to be used as a museum after restoration.			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Mary K. Bowman			
STREET AND NUMBER: 951 The Terrace			
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Washington County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Washington
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		
	(Check One)		(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>The Elliott-Bester House is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Baltimore and South Potomac Streets in Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland. Its facade faces east, toward Potomac Street.</p> <p>The two-story brick dwelling is seven bays in length, including a two-bay addition at its south end. It is painted yellow and is trimmed with black and white. A two-story four-bay ell extends to the rear or north of the main structure. To this ell is attached an early twentieth century concrete block addition which housed the Bester florist business.</p> <p>Set on low stone foundations, the bricks of the original section of the facade, or east, wall and the north gable wall are laid in Flemish bond. Other walls display common bond brick work. A quarter round molded brick water table extends along the facade.</p> <p>The windows, under segmental brick arches contain two over two pane Victorian period sashes. They are flanked with paneled shutters at the first story, and louvered shutters at the second floor level. A large store window has been installed in the bays north of the main entrance.</p> <p>The two entrances in the facade are topped with late nineteenth century bracketed hoods. Wide transoms are present over the doors. The original front door is in the second bay from the north end of the house.</p> <p>Three chimneys are present, of varying size but all with corbeled caps. They rise from inside the north and south gable ends with a large flue projecting from the original south gable end. The slate roof is broken by two projecting gables with carved decorative trim. Other exterior woodwork associated with the eaves is of the Victorian period.</p> <p>The original appearance of the house was altered greatly during the late nineteenth century. Changes to the building include replacement of original windows, frames and doors, the addition of an entrance in the facade, the construction of the two projecting gables in the roof line at the front of the house and the addition of the two south bays.</p> <p>Much of the interior of the house has also been altered. Changes have been made to the woodwork and floors as well as to the floor plan of the building. The major alterations appear to date from the late nineteenth century.</p> <p>Some original interior woodwork is present in all rooms and in the stair hall. Most of the alterations to the woodwork occur at the first story although some original molded cornice (of wood) and doors with six raised panels remain. At the second story level the southeast room has original wood sheathing on the fireplace wall, consisting of raised panels with plain quarter round molding. The southwest room is treated similarly with paneling confined to the chimney breast and adjacent cupboards.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☒ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

Boyhood home

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science

of Com. Jesse

☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture

D. Elliott

☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☒ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Elliott-Bester House lies in its architectural and historic merit. With its remaining original woodwork and interior and exterior detail reflecting eighteenth century formal design, the house is an excellent example of a dwelling built early in western Maryland's architectural history. Since bricks apparently did not become a prevalent building material in Washington County until after 1800, the Elliott-Bester House with a probable late eighteenth century building date is particularly outstanding.

Historically, the house is important for its association with Commodore Jesse D. Elliott who spent his boyhood years there. Elliott is remembered in military history for his distinguished role in the Battle of Lake Erie with Commodore Oliver H. Perry during the War of 1812.

Jesse Duncan Elliott was born on July 14, 1782. The Elliotts were a Scotch-Irish family who migrated from Donegal in the north of Ireland to Pennsylvania.

After studying law at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Elliott received a commission in the navy as a midshipman. During the Battle of Lake Erie, on September 10, 1813, Elliott commanded the "Niagra" where his strategic actions are recognized as leading to victory in the battle.

By 1818 a controversy had begun concerning Elliott's conduct during the Battle of Lake Erie which subsequently resulted in a court-martial and his suspension from the navy in 1840. In 1843 Elliott's case was reheard and he was reinstated at his former rank. He was appointed to the command of the Philadelphia Navy Yard and died there December 10, 1845.

In addition to his role in the Battle of Lake Erie, Elliott served in the Mediterranean. He was put in command of the naval forces in the West Indies and the Gulf of Mexico in 1829. He led naval forces at Charleston, South Carolina, and later took charge of the Boston Navy Yard. Elliott then sailed to the Mediterranean again where he was in command of the navy squadron there. In 1839 he returned to the U. S. where he remained until his death.

An account of the Battle of Lake Erie from Elliott's memoirs along with biographical information is printed in Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WA-HAG-84

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary Sources

Land Records of Washington County, Maryland

Probate Records of Washington County, Maryland.

Report on the Committee of Claims, the Petition of Anne Elliott,
February 15, 1804.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 83' x 155'

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		
Paula Stoner Dickey		
ORGANIZATION	DATE	
Consultant, Architectural History	April, 1974	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
335 South Ridge Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Greencastle	Pennsylvania	03

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

WA-NAG-84

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

The Elliott-Bester House

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Original doors and wood sheathed chimney walls have raised panels trimmed with plain quarter round molding. Numerous wrought nails and screws have been found. In the cellar heavy joists apparently of split logs carry a layer of stone and mortar below the floor boards.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Speech of Commodore Jesse Duncan Elliott, U.S.N., delivered in Hagerstown, November 14, 1843, Philadelphia: G. B. Zieber and Co., 1844.

Tax Records of Elizabeth Hundred, 1783, 1803.

Secondary Sources: (references to Com. Jesse D. Elliott)

Sharf, Thomas, History of Western Maryland, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.

Williams, Thomas J. C., A History of Washington County, Hagerstown: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

MARYLAND

COUNTY:

WASHINGTON

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME			
COMMON: Bester House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Home of Col. Robert Elliott & birthplace of Commodore Jesse D. Elliott.			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 205-207 South Potomac Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			
STATE Maryland		CODE	COUNTY: Washington
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP	STATUS
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>
		Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>		Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>
		Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: Mrs. H. D. Bowman (Mary K.)			
STREET AND NUMBER: 951 The Terrace			
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland	CODE
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Washington County Court House Liber 398, Folio 579			
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland	CODE
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: There has never been an historical survey of Hagerstown, Md.			
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust			
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1704			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original Appearance:
 Brick Colonial two story with attic and dormer windows, chimney at both sides of house.
 Eight rooms with central hall.
 Heavy winding stairway extending three floors.
 Fire place with mantel in each room-two in corners.
 Two rooms have structural posts at corners covered with pilasters also pilasters spaced around the room. Also arch between rooms, Six paneled doors - raised panels - L. & H. hinges.
 Floors - wide pine boards pegged to hand hewn logs - set in field stones.

Out Buildings.
 Note: This house has been in one family for over 100 years. The last occupant died recently at age 98 - had lived here all her life and remembered the house as it was before altered.

Present Appearance:
 Original floors with stone construction - covered by hardwood on first floor. Some original doors, hardware, pilasters, arch stairway, dados, cornices, etc. Four original mantels.
 Two story addition to south side and rear - windows and doors altered.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WA-NAG-84

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☒20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☐

W-1146-84

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

proved to have been built before 1782

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☒Industry ☐losophy ☐Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐Itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The most conspicuous son of Washington County in the war of 1812 was Commodore Jesse Duncan Elliott. He was born in this house on July 14th 1782. He shared with Commodore Perry the honor of gaining the great Naval victory of Lake Erie on September 10th 1813. Col. Robert Elliott, Merchant and father of Commodore Elliott, owned the nominated property on South Potomac Street. He was killed by a party of Indians while on his way to join General Wayne's army, for which he had contracted to furnish supplies. His death rendered his family destitute but through the efforts of John Thompson Mason, Congress granted a small pension to his widow and President Jefferson forwarded commissions as Midshipmen in the Navy to two of his sons, St. Clair and Jesse, in 1804. During his naval career, Commodore Elliott took part in many historic battles - he was in command of the Ontario as one of Commodore Decatur's squadron in the Mediterranean against Algiers, and in 1835 was Commander of the U.S.S. Constitution. He was appointed Commander of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and died there in 1845.

*Note: "Among his officers on the Constitution, Commodore Elliott mentions in his memoirs, Lt. Cadwalader Ringgold, son of Gen. Samuel Ringgold of Fountain Rock (later St. James School) whom he had contributed to place in the Navy - and also Midshipman Israel, nephew of Gen. O. H. Williams who lost his life in a most "tragic and glorious" manner in the war with Tripoli."

*From Scharf's History of Western Maryland.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WA-HAG-84

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

VOL. I - History and Biographical Record of Washington County, Maryland. page 147, 236, by T.J.C. Williams in which he states that Commodore Jesse Duncan Elliott was born in this house.
 VOL. II. History of Western Maryland by Scharf-page- 1028
 1800 tax list of Elizabethtown hundred lists 3 lots 1029
 and a meadow of the Widow Elliott-Tax 300 pounds- 1030
 Washington County Court House. Deed G. 490 -1791 1031
 Robert Elliott from Fackler for 1185 pounds for 6 3/4 1032
 acres. 1033

SEE ATTACHMENT:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

ATTACHMENT:

9. Major Bibliographical References, continued:

Many references (historical concerning J.D.E.) at National Archives and U. S. Naval Academy.

Owner possesses:

Copy of original report of the Committee of Claims, to whom it was referred on 18th October 1803. Petition of Ann Elliott (Mother of Jesse) presented January 26th 1803 requests reimbursement for supplies lost when Col. Elliott was killed and wherein she states she was reduced at once from affluence to poverty. A Zerox copy attached.

Copy of Commodore Elliott's lengthy speech upon his return to Hagerstown in 1843 to visit the graves of his mother and sister. He was honored at a dinner at the Washington County Court House and gave an address at the request of a large group of prominent citizens of the County.

Published by order of the Committee of Arrangements of Washington County Maryland.

Published by G. B. Zeeber and Company, Ledger Building, 3rd Street, Philadelphia, 1844.

Bio. notice of Commodore J. D. Elliott - containing a review of the controversy between him and the late Commodore Perry - and a history of the frigate Constitution - by a citizen of New York - published in Philadelphia by the author in 1835.

Library of Congress
Rare Book Room
Washington, D. C.

Miss Bowman's aunt's house
207 S. Potomac St.

WAS VI
WA - VI - 44

WA-HAG-89

water table — $\frac{1}{2}$ round brick top


(8V)


part of Hager's Fancy — adjoined —

central hall — was to W of root —
wall had wainscott but is now
removed & covered with paper —

Antiques 1961 p. 185 —

8 rooms $\frac{4}{4}$ & center Hall
attic —

 plank ceiling in cellar —
stone fill above plank ceiling —

 wood licks, & pegged frame in cellar —
high ceiling in cellar —



FOUR LEAF

POWDERED ROCK PHOSPHATE

Mrs. Bowman

207 S. Potomac

RE-9-2191

RE 9-1524

Mrs. Bowman
meets

Mrs. Parrish
Mrs.

JAMES THOMAS WOLLON, JR., A.I.A.

Architect

Craigs' Corner Road

Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078.

734-7980

879-6748

Preliminary Report

Elliott-Best~~er~~ House
203-205 South Potomac Street
Hagerstown, Maryland

On 1 March 1974, I inspected the Elliott-Best~~er~~ House with Mrs. Paula Dickey, Mrs. Wanda Allenback and Mr. Donald Frush. The purpose of the inspection was to familiarize me with the house so I could advise on proposed scopes of restoration and identify the original design and the changes.

The original plans of the first and second storeys, the design of the street facade(s), a recommended scope of restoration and its estimated cost, are desired at this time.

The structure, as it exists, appears as two row houses. Closer examination reveals that the two southerly (left end) bays were added, creating a seven bay structure; another front door, similar to the (remodeled) one in the center of the original five bays, two steep gables in the roof, 2/2 windows of a size different from the originals, were all added, c. 1880-1900. This remodeling, changing one house into two, with the picturesque gables in the attic storey, was rather ingenious; it was well done.

The cleverness of the exterior alterations, and two marblized slate mantels are about the only noteworthy features of the altered house. It is desired to restore the house to its earlier period. Although current preservation philosophy favors retention of later alterations, in many cases, a restoration to the earlier period seems justified in this case, if its future use will not be limited by such a restoration, because of the uninteresting quality of most of the altered work, and the extent of original work which remains.

The slate mantels, the later interior doors and hardware, and the two front doors and entrance surrounds, should be removed carefully and saved for a 19th century preservation effort in town.

Every window appears to be altered, both in width, height and in design; this is the most significant loss. Some windows have one unaltered masonry jamb (as would be expected) but some have no unaltered jambs; this suggests that the location of neither original jamb suited the alterer, although one questions if just a few inches one way or the other would matter to anyone, or that no window existed at that location previous to the alteration. Certain peculiarities in the floor plan, which will be discussed when the plans are drawn, suggest the latter, but the elimination of all windows with no original jamb creates other conditions difficult to accept as original. Except for the windows, enough original work of all types survives to achieve a relatively authentic restoration. Two mantels

have been replaced, but four others survive, unaltered; many original doors survive, all of the same design, suggesting that all doors were identical; much door trim survives, as does baseboard, chair rail and interior cornicework; while the staircase from the first floor to the landing below the second floor has been removed, the stair and bannister-work survive unaltered from the landing to the third floor; while nearly all original hardware is missing, its outlines clearly show on every door. Later partitions are easily distinguished from originals, and few are missing altogether.

The whole structure appears sound, and no alarming settlements were noted.

The general design of interior millwork suggests a date no earlier than the third quarter of the 18th century, and, in Western Maryland, probably in the fourth quarter. I have seen the same early millwork used in the early 19th century, as well. The use of wrought nails in all early work suggests the 18th century, however. The street (east) front and north end are laid in Flemish bond, and the other two sides are in common, with frequently recurring courses of headers. Such brickwork is characteristic of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, although dated examples are known well back into the 18th century. Joints are tooled to a pointed profile, rather than the customary "grapevine", a characteristic of early stonemasonry in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

As the reliable and comfortable 1798 tax records seem not to exist for Washington County, the determination of the date, and the windows will be difficult. Much additional research on the building is, of course, necessary, and more clues may be found; similar buildings in the area, or in the vicinity of the builders' birthplace, may suggest answers.

This is but a preliminary report of my inspection. I spent the afternoon in the house, measuring the exterior horizontal dimensions, and sketching the interior floor plans, noting original and later features visible at this time. With Mr. Frush standing by, I made several test holes through plaster finish to determine the relative age of several questionable partitions in the second storey.

The next part of this report will include the floor plans with a preliminary conjecture of their original design, one or more preliminary conjectures of the original design of the street (east) elevation, and broad estimates of restoration costs.


James T. Wollon, Jr.

JAMES THOMAS WOLLON, JR., A.I.A.

Architect

Craigs' Corner Road

Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

734-7980

879-6748

PRELIMINARY REPORT

Part II

Elliott-Bestor House

Hagerstown, Maryland

This second part of the preliminary report on the Elliott-Bestor House, the first part of which was written immediately after my inspection of the house on 1 March 1974, will discuss, in more detail, some points raised in the first part of the report, and will make some basic conclusions, all of which will be subject to further research.

Basic Structure

Exterior walls are all brick. The easterly portion of the rear wing appears early, probably slightly later than the house, however. The westerly portion, and the south addition appear to be of the late 19th or early 20th century.

The house is framed with two girders in every floor, extending north-south, as indicated by the pairs of dashed lines, with joists (invisible except in the cellar) from exterior walls to the girders, east-west. In the cellar, the first floor joists appear to be logs, laid quite close together, with the space between them filled with small rocks and mortar.

First Floor

Partitions appear to have been added for various functions, rather than removed: a vestibule was formed in the southeast corner, a stair was introduced and enclosed in the southwest room, and the main stair was rebuilt and enclosed in the center hall. Doorways between rooms are probably widened versions of typical doors, although, at this time, no evidence supports or denies doors between rooms.

An elliptically arched transom, now unglazed, forms part of a backdrop behind the big northeast show window. Mr. Frush says that it is said to have come from the center hall, just east of the staircase. Its 5'-7" width would fit in the 6'-11" wide hall and it could be believable in this period house in this location, with doors, or a door and sidelights, beneath; in this location, it would be very stylish, more stylish than the original woodwork elsewhere in the house, perhaps more stylish than would be expected. In this location, it suggests that the structure had more than one function, such as residential and business. The transom, or a similar transom, could have been above the front door,

or doors, in the exterior wall. Examination behind existing finishes in the hall should determine the presence or absence of a transom near the stair.

The absence of a fireplace in the northeast room (and the absence of evidence in the cellar and in the second storey) suggests a function quite different from the other rooms. While stoves were available in the late 18th century, why would this room (and the one above it) be designed for them unless its different function so suggested? Would the latest style, alone, suggest so drastic a difference in basic construction? Was the builder experimenting in these two rooms with this improvement in heating?

The original mantel remains at the northwest fireplace, and original cornices remain in the northwest, southeast and southwest rooms. Chair rail, generally, has been removed, but its evidence remains.

The two mantels of the south rooms are slate painted in imitation of marble; they are in good condition and are good examples of this kind of work, dating from the late 19th century, but rarely found in good condition.

Modern finishes and uses prevent examination for cupboards beside the chimney breasts. The remaining cupboard beside the southwest chimney is at least partly original.

Likewise, existing finishes prevent a determination of the relative date and shape of the south wall's masonry openings. Only one front window remains, at a "typical" size; its south jamb appears original but the north jamb has been rebuilt.

In the north facade, the door near the northeast corner was originally a window; the west jamb of the west window, and the east jamb of the east door (at least to window sill height) appear original, while the other jambs appear rebuilt.

Second Floor

All mantels are original; stairwork, from the landing clear to the third storey, is original. Many doors, and much door trim remains from original construction. Doors were hung on long strap hinges, but butt hinges have replaced all original straps and pintels. Door 206 is interesting in that it is an early glazed door, apparently out of context.

The doors shown open in the conjectured plan are those which exhibit original trim, or which otherwise seem logical to assume as original, at this time. The partitions shown, except for 'b', contain original doors, chair rail (or evidence thereof) and handsplit lathing with wrought nails. Partition 'b' is non-existent. The acceptance of the diagonal partition at 'a' as original suggests, as its reason for being diagonal, the Door 202, still with original trim. The Door 203 has been entirely eliminated by the alterations, but it is in evidence. All partitions indicated by 'c' have sawn lathe and no evidence of chair rail, hence the preliminary conclusion that they are later additions in their entirety, hence the conclusion that a partition existed at 'b' to justify both doors 202 and 203, which required the original diagonal wall. There is the slightest indication of partition 'b' on the original floorboards. Partition 'b' would not allow Window 203 to exist at its present size. There are probably other partition arrangements which could be conjectured; this one seems the simplest.

Both masonry jambs of Window 203 appear rebuilt. At Window 202, the south jamb only appears original and at Window 204, the north jamb only appears original. Neither jamb of Window 201 and 205 appears original. Does this suggest that windows existed only at 202 and 204, and that they were wider or narrower than the existing masonry openings (3'-1") and that the alterer accepted one jamb? Accepting as original only windows with one original jamb allows but one window in the southeast room, hardly logical. Why would one jamb not have survived at the other windows? The most logical preliminary conclusion is that there were four windows on the second storey front facade, each masonry opening slightly wider than the existing.

The east jamb of Window 206, and the west jamb of Window 207 are original.

At 'd', a line in the floor and evidence on the walls, indicates built-in cupboards matching those east of the chimney breast. The doors to the small cupboard now opening into the corridor are original, but out of context.

The resulting very large room in the northeast corner has no fireplace, and there is no evidence of one. Enough finishes appear original to conclude, preliminarily, that there was never a fireplace in this room. Like the room beneath it, was it for a special purpose, different from the other rooms in this storey?

Restoration Budget

Although many fragments of original work remain throughout the house, the alterations should be considered more "extensive" than "minimal." Altered work can be differentiated clearly from original, and there is every reason to expect clear signs of missing work with normal architectural research on the building except for one detail, unfortunately, a most important one--the windows. All masonry openings appear to have been altered (although not all have been examined exhaustively) and at this time it is not known if more than a conjecture can be determined. Possibly, an unaltered masonry opening exists hidden by one of the additions or by one of the front entrance surrounds. Possibly fragments of an original window unit will be found in the building--part of a frame or sill used as blocking behind later finished work, or such a part, or a sash, stored in the cellar, which is full of stored materials, much of which appear original to this house.

Architectural research before, and concurrent with, removals of later work is essential to this project, and will be a major part of architectural services.

The following broad estimates assume as authentic a restoration as possible to the period of original construction, with the possible retention of the earliest portion of the rear wing.

Phase	Description	Construction Budget	Architect's Fees
I	Research: measured drawings, removal of later work, determination of original scheme, details	\$3,000	\$4,000
II	Development: proposed use, or adaptive use of house, as allowed by house itself		750.

Phase	Description	Construction Budget 2	Architect's Fees 1
III	Contract Documents: drawings and specifications, including details of all work, for restoration and adaptation		\$5,000
	Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Contract Documents		3,500.
IV	Bidding or Negotiation: acquiring a contract for the restoration work		750.
V	Restoration Construction: Actual construction, with the Architect's inspection of construction, interpreting new evidence found, revising details, and contract administration	\$140,000 to 180,000	\$4,000.

1. Excluding Architect's travel, and out-of-pocket expenses
2. Excluding extensive work on site

Archaeology should be considered to determine outbuildings and other items of site design, even if the program cannot include restoration of these features. The services of a professional archaeologist should be engaged.

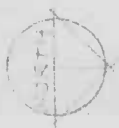
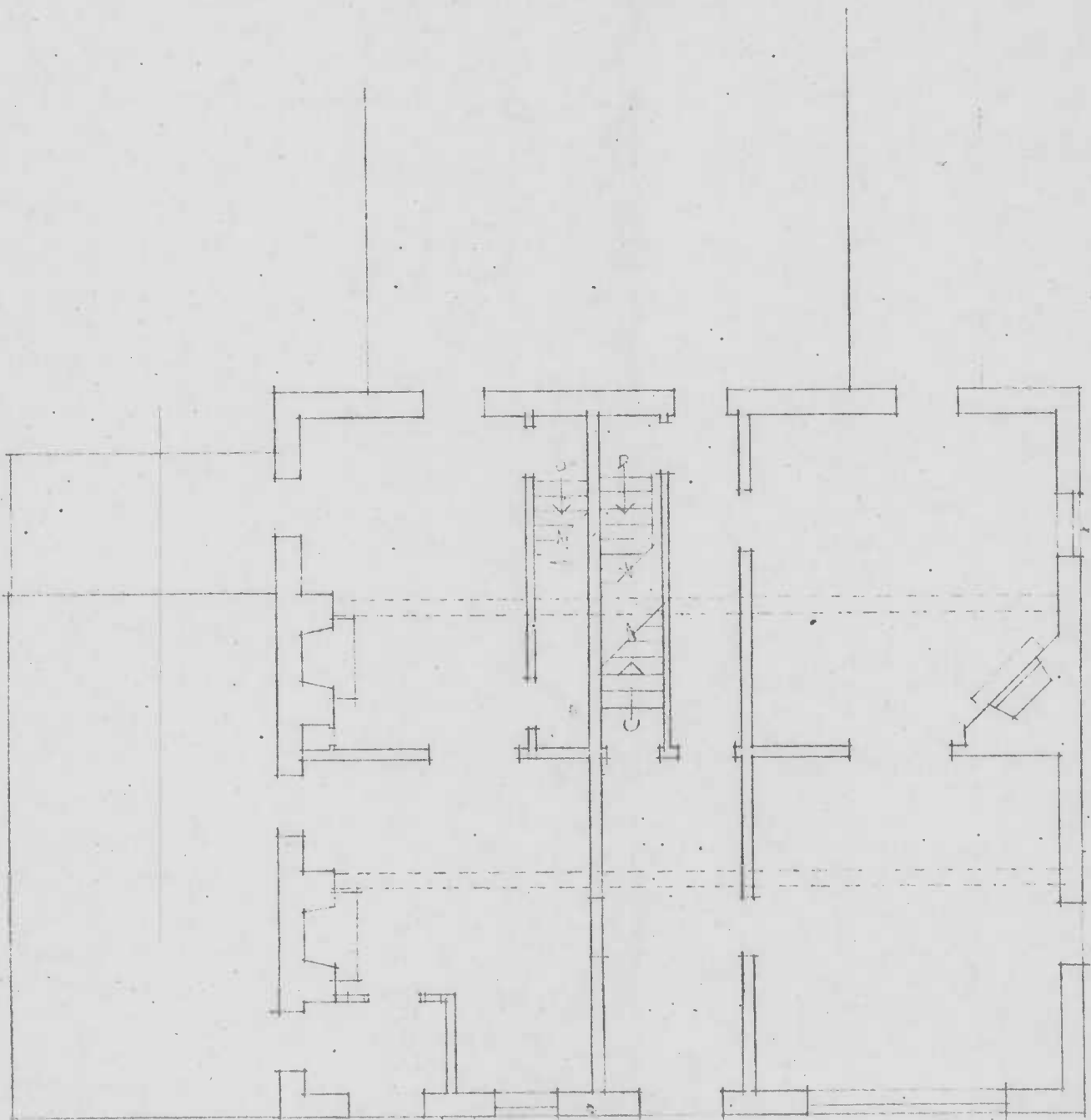
Additional historical research is required to find every possible detail which might ever have been written about this structure. The services of a professional historian should be engaged.

James T. Wollon, Jr.
James T. Wollon, Jr.

ELLIOTT-BESTOR HOUSE
205 S. POTOMAC STREET
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

EXISTING FLOOR PLAN 1 MARCH 1974

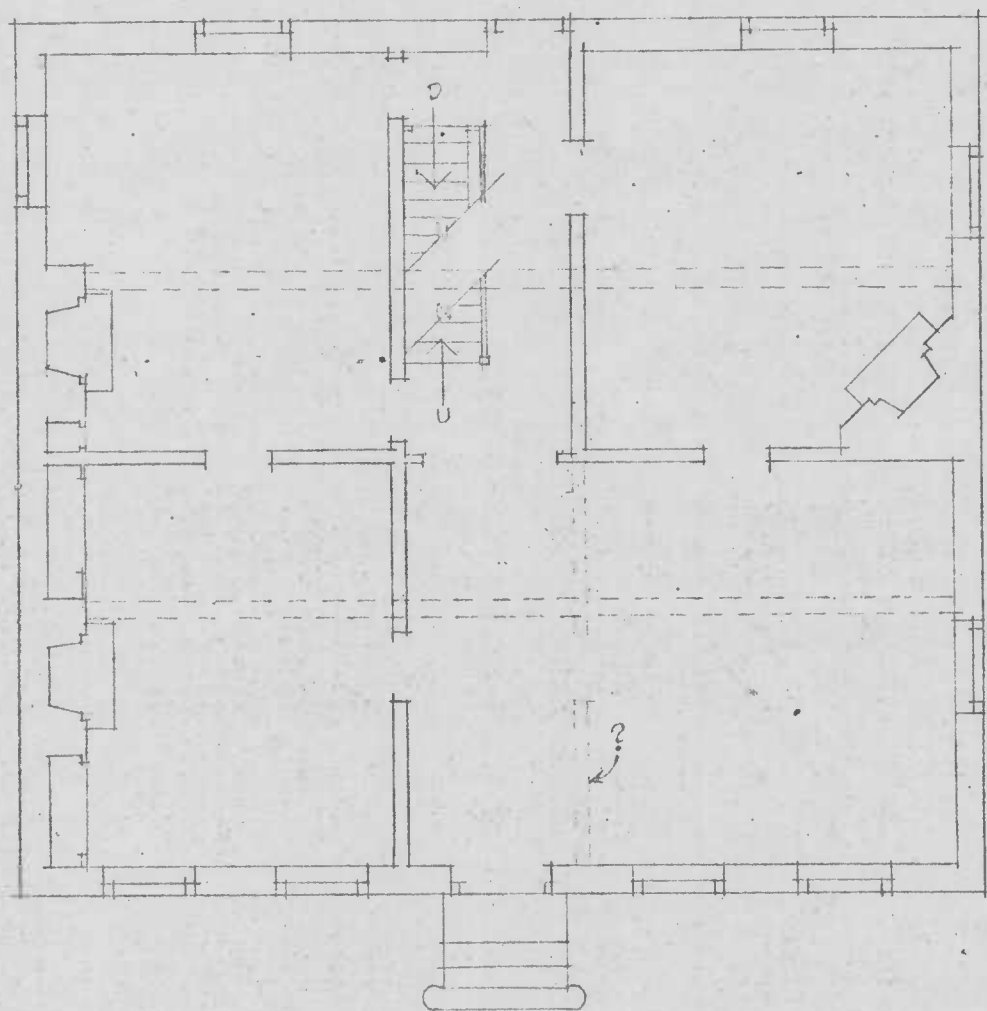
WA-HAG-84



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

APPROX. SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



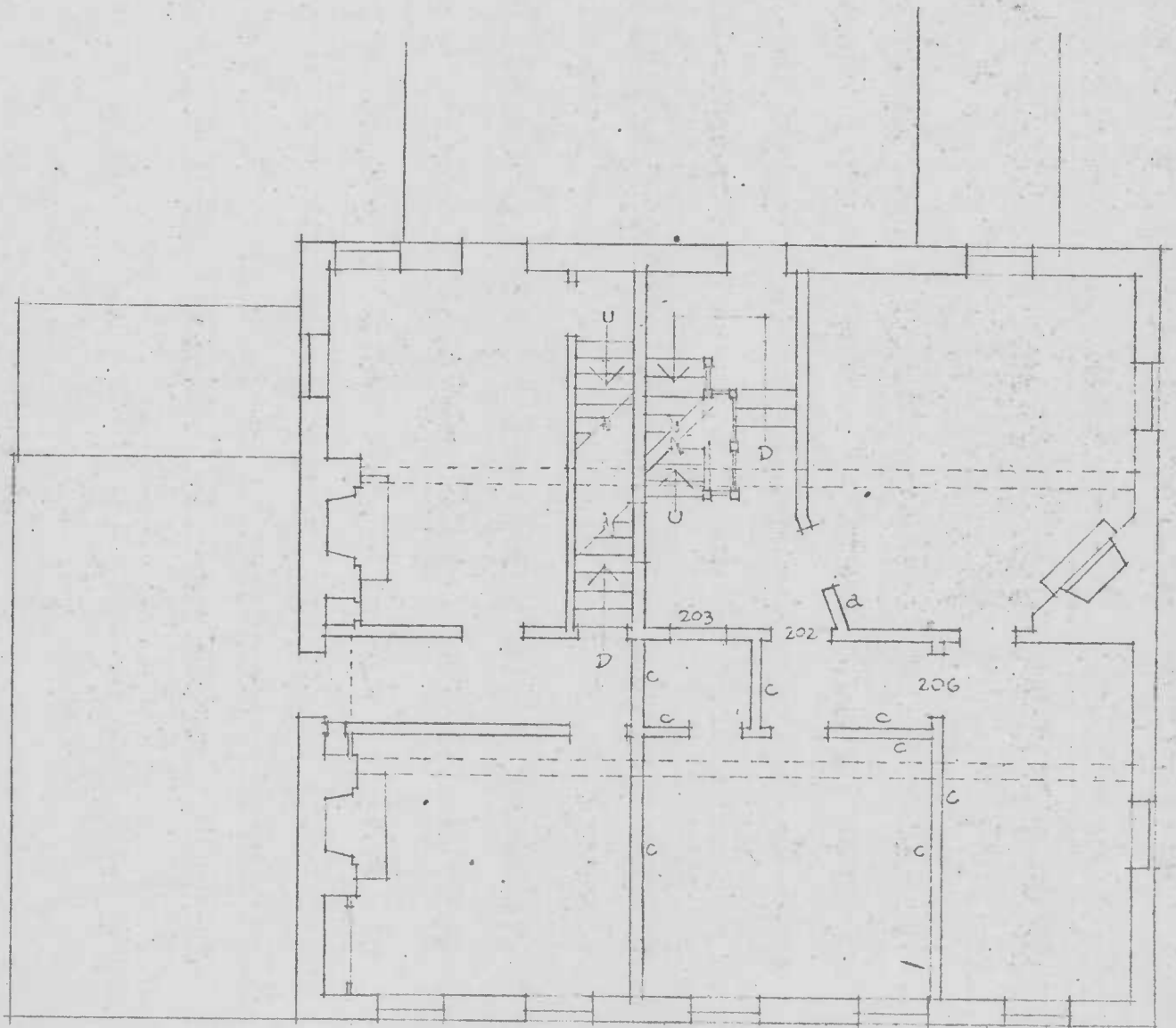
PRELIMINARY CONJECTURE of FIRST FLOOR
 BASED ON AVAILABLE EVIDENCE 18 MARCH 1974

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

ELLIOTT-BESTER HOUSE
205 S. POTOMAC STREET
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

EXISTING FLOOR PLAN 1 MARCH 1974

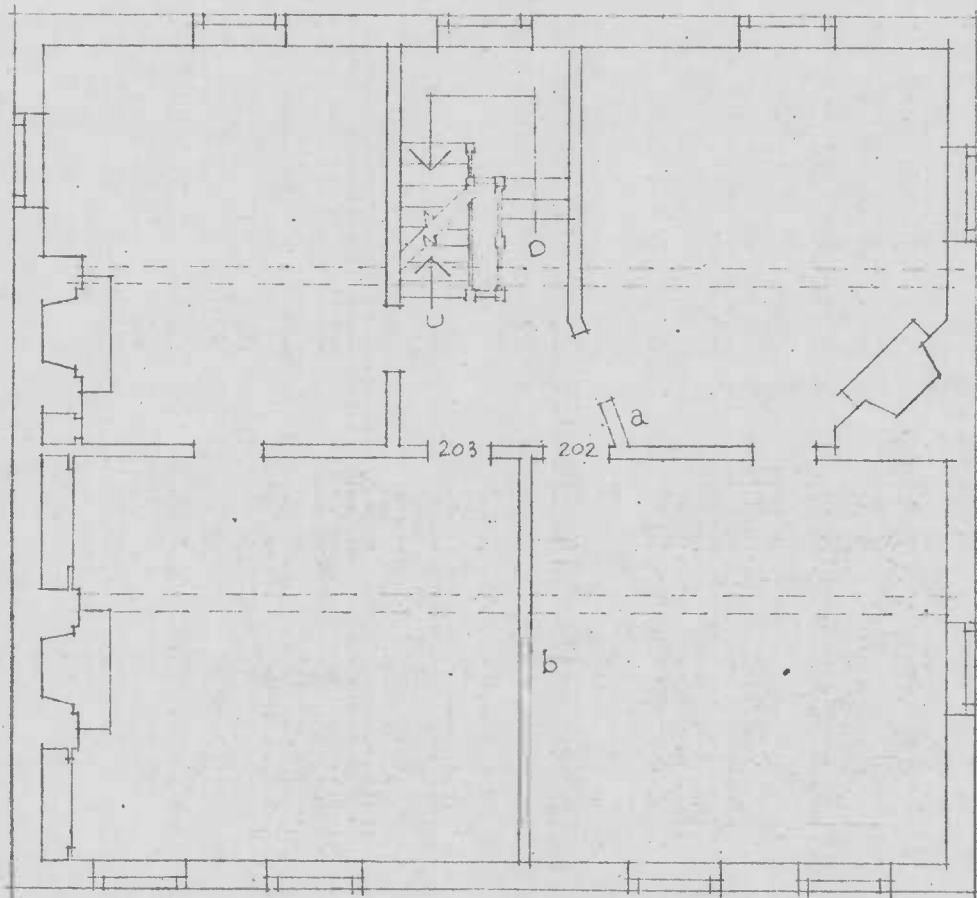
WA-HAG-84.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN APPROX. SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

WA-NAG-84



PRELIMINARY CONJECTURE of SECOND FLOOR
BASED ON AVAILABLE EVIDENCE 18 MARCH 1974

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" 

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ELLIOTT-BESTOR HOUSE
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

2

HAGERS TOWN QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1: 24 000
1953



Mapped by Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE.

WA-NNG 84

HAGERSTOWN QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1: 24 000
1953



39°37'30"

77°45'

150000 FEET (M.D.) 465

WILLIAMSPORT 3.5 MI.
MARTINSBURG W. VA 11 MI

Maped by Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army

WA-HAG-84



WA-HAG-84 ELLIOTT BETER HOUSE

425



Elliott-Baker House

Interior, 2nd floor

S. E. room

May, 1974

Paula Stoner Dickey
Consultant, Architectural History



labeled:

J. D. Travinger
Gem Photo Shop
254 S. Potomac St.
Hagerstown, Md.

(Travinger is listed only in the
1989-1990 City Directory)

Elliott-Bester House
205-207 South Potomac St
Hagerstown
Washington Co., Md.
WA-HAG-84
SE view

Source: Donald R. Frush
Hagerstown

RONALD L. ANDREWS



Elliott - Bester House
S.e. Room

May, 1974

WA - HA 6 - 84

Paula Dickey Consultant



Elliott-Baker House

S.W. Room

May, 1974

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Paula Stover Dickey, Consultant



Elliott - Bester House

S.W. Room

May, 1974

Paula Stouffer Dickey, Consultant



Elliott Bester House

S.E. Room

May, 1974

Renta Stoner Dickey, consultant